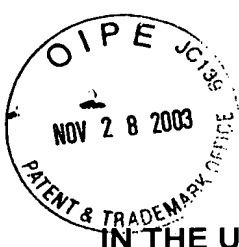


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RCE 11774 \$

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 09/926,432
 Applicant : Von Drach
 Filed : 12/31/01
 TC/A.U. : 1774
 Examiner : C. S. Thompson

 Docket No. : VOND3002JDB
 Customer No. : 23364

Confirmation No.: 3103

RECEIVED
 DEC 04 2003
 TC 1700

**TRANSMITTAL ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUED
 EXAMINATION AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA. 22202-3514

Sir:

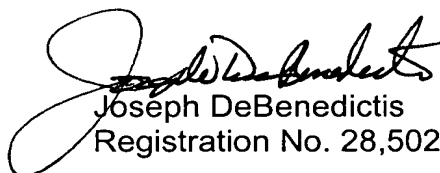
Examiner Thompson informed the below-signed attorney during a telephone conversation on November 24, 2003, that she will speak to her supervisor concerning the propriety of the finality of the last office action (i.e., the office action dated July 28, 2003). The below signed attorney has been unable to obtain an answer from the examiner despite numerous phone calls made to her.

The accompanying request for continued examination is obviously unnecessary in the event that the examiner determines that the finality of the last office action should be withdrawn. However, applicant now finds it necessary to file a request for continued examination along with a petition for a one month extension of time. In view of the above, applicant reserves the right to a refund for the fees paid in connection with the accompanying request for continued examination and petition for an extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 26, 2003

BACON & THOMAS
 625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
 Alexandria, Virginia 22314
 Phone: (703) 683-0500


 Joseph DeBenedictis
 Registration No. 28,502